Climate Characteristics for Selected South Carolina Cities

CITY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
COLUMBIA													
1971-2000 Climatological Normals 1/													
Normal Daily Mean Temperature 2/	44.6	47.9	55.4	63.2	71.6	78.5	82.0	80.3	74.7	63.7	54.7	47.0	63.6
Normal Daily Maximum Temperature	55.1	59.5	67.4	75.7	83.1	89.1	92.1	90.0	84.8	75.8	66.7	57.8	74.8
Normal Daily Minimum Temperature	34.0	36.3	43.5	50.7	60.0	67.9	71.8	70.6	64.6	51.5	42.6	36.1	52.6
Normal Heating Degree Days 3/	628	485	321	131	23	0	0	0	8	121	325	552	2,594
Normal Cooling Degree Days 3/	2	4	20	69	211	390	519	467	296	76	15	5	2,074
Normal Precipitation, Inches	4.66	3.84	4.59	2.98	3.17	4.99	5.54	5.41	3.94	2.89	2.88	3.38	48.27
Observed Data Through 2007 4/													
Temperature - Highest of Record	84	84	91	94	101	107	107	107	101	101	90	83	107
Temperature - Lowest of Record	-1	5	4	26	34	44	54	53	40	23	12	4	-1
Snowfall - Average Total in Inches 5/	0.6	0.8	0.2	T	T	0.0	T	T	0.0	0.0	T	0.3	1.9
Sunshine - Avg. % of Possible 6/	55	59	64	70	68	67	67	66	65	67	63	59	64
Wind - Average Speed (MPH)	7.2	7.7	8.2	8.2	7.0	6.6	6.3	5.8	6.0	6.1	6.3	6.7	6.8
GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG													
1971-2000 Climatological Normals 1/													
Normal Daily Mean Temperature 2/	40.8	44.4	51.6	59.0	67.2	74.7	78.8	77.5	71.4	60.5	51.1	43.5	60.0
Normal Daily Maximum Temperature	50.2	54.8	62.7	71.0	78.2	85.1	88.8	87.1	81.1	71.4	61.3	52.7	70.4
Normal Daily Minimum Temperature	31.4	33.9	40.5	47.0	56.2	64.3	68.7	67.9	61.7	49.7	41.0	34.3	49.7
Normal Heating Degree Days 3/	750	586	420	197	47	3	0	0	19	178	417	655	3,272
Normal Cooling Degree Days 3/	0	0	5	30	127	304	430	384	207	35	3	1	1,526
Normal Precipitation, Inches	4.41	4.24	5.31	3.54	4.59	3.92	4.65	4.08	3.97	3.88	3.79	3.86	50.24
Observed Data Through 2007 4/													
Temperature - Highest of Record	79	81	89	93	97	100	104	105	96	92	85	79	105
Temperature - Lowest of Record	-6	8	11	24	31	40	54	52	36	25	12	5	-6
Snowfall - Average Total in Inches 5/	2.5	2.0	1.1	T	T	T	T	T	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7	6.5
Sunshine - Avg. % of Possible 6/	54	57	63	66	62	62	60	61	62	66	58	54	60
Wind - Average Speed (MPH)	7.6	8.0	8.3	8.0	7.0	6.5	6.1	5.7	6.2	6.5	6.8	7.4	7.0
CHARLESTON													
1971-2000 Climatological Normals 1/													
Normal Daily Mean Temperature 2/	47.9	50.7	57.7	64.2	72.1	78.2	81.7	80.5	76.1	66.2	58.0	50.5	65.3
Normal Daily Maximum Temperature	58.9	62.3	69.3	76.1	82.9	87.9	90.9	89.4	85.0	77.0	69.6	61.6	75.9
Normal Daily Minimum Temperature	36.9	39.1	46.0	52.2	61.3	68.5	72.5	71.6	67.1	55.3	46.4	39.3	54.7
Normal Heating Degree Days 3/	523	394	242	95	11	1	0	0	2	69	229	439	2,005
Normal Cooling Degree Days 3/	3	7	29	84	242	408	532	494	348	121	34	4	2,306
Normal Precipitation, Inches	4.08	3.08	4.00	2.77	3.67	5.92	6.13	6.91	5.98	3.09	2.66	3.24	51.53
Observed Data Through 2007 4/													
Temperature - Highest of Record	83	87	90	95	98	103	104	105	99	94	88	83	105
Temperature - Lowest of Record	6	12	15	29	36	50	58	56	42	27	15	8	6
Snowfall - Average Total in Inches 5/	0.1	0.2	0.1	T	0.0	T	T	0.0	0.0	0.0	T	0.3	0.7
Sunshine - Avg. % of Possible 6/	56	59	66	72	68	66	67	64	61	63	59	56	63
Wind - Average Speed (MPH)	9.1	9.8	10.0	9.7	8.6	8.3	7.8	7.4	7.7	8.0	8.1	8.5	8.6

1/: 30-year average values computed from the data recorded during the period 1971- 2000. Normals are updated decennially, for the most recent 30-year period.

2/: Temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit.

3/: Degree day data are used to estimate amounts of energy required to maintain comfortable indoor temperature levels. Daily values are computed from each days mean temperature (max + min/2). Each degree that a day's mean temperature is below or above 65 degrees Fahrenheit is counted as one heating or cooling degree day.

4/: These values are the means and extremes for the Period of Record (number of years) indicated: Charleston (65 Years), Columbia (60 Years), Greenville-Spartanburg (45 Years).

5/: Including ice pellets and sleet. T stands for "trace," which is less than 1/100th of an inch of precipitation.

6:/ The total time that sunshine reaches the surface of the earth is expressed as the percentage of the maximum amount possible from sunrise to sunset with clear sky conditions.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA National Data Centers, Comparative Climatic Data.